

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for storing a received program, comprising:
storing, by a computing device, the received program as a first digital copy having a first quality level on a storage medium;
converting, by the computing device, the first digital copy directly into a second and a third digital copy of the received program, having a second and a third quality level respectively, wherein the third quality level is lower than the second quality level, and the second quality level is lower than the first quality level;
storing, by the computing device, the second and the third digital copy along with the first digital copy on the storage medium; and
~~determining periodically, by the computing device, space left available in the storage medium; and~~ after a period of time during which both all copies are available for a potential replaying for a user, applying, by the computing device, a retention policy associated with the program which instructs deletion of to delete at least one of the stored first, and second and third digital copies based at least in part on a result of said determining.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving, by the computing device, a request to schedule a recording of the program;
determining, by the computing device, a recording quality and a longevity for the program; and
associating, by the computing device, the recording quality and longevity with the program;
wherein applying the retention policy is performed based at least in part on the associated desired longevity.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the recording quality comprises high, medium and low quality.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein determining the quality and longevity comprises a selected one of: utilizing a default quality and longevity or prompting for the desired quality and longevity.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein longevity comprises long, medium, and temporary, and wherein applying the retention policy further comprises comparing associated quality settings and longevity to determine which stored copy of the program is to be deleted.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving, by the computing device, a request to schedule a recording of the program, the request having an associated quality to utilize for recording the program; and
inferring, by the computing device, a longevity for the recording based on the associated quality;
~~periodically, during the inferred longevity, selecting, by the computing device, a stored copy of the program and determining a lower quality for the selected copy based at least in part on how much of the inferred longevity has been covered by the selected copy; and~~
~~—degrading, by the computing device, the selected copy of the program in accordance with the lower quality.~~

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining, by the computing device, a bitrate and an encoding format for each of the first, ~~and second~~ and third digital copies, wherein the first, ~~and second~~ and third quality levels are determined based at least in part on the corresponding bitrates and the encoding formats utilized.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first~~, and second~~ and third quality levels are determined based at least in part on a respective bitrate utilized to encode the first~~, and second~~ and third digital copies.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first~~, and second~~ and third quality levels are determined based at least in part on an respective encoding format utilized to encode the first~~, and second~~ and third digital copies.

10. – 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A personal video recorder (PVR), comprising:
a video encoder configured to encode an input signal corresponding to a program into a higher quality copy of the program and store the higher quality copy on a storage medium;
a transcoder configured to directly convert the higher quality copy of the program into at least ~~one copy~~ two copies of the program with progressively lower quality stored along with the higher quality copy on the storage medium; and
a storage manager configured to ~~determine periodically space left available in the storage medium, and apply a~~ retention policy to delete one or more copies of the program ~~based at least in part on a result of the determination.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The PVR of claim 19, wherein the transcoder is configured to stores the higher and at least ~~one~~ two lower quality copies of the program as components of a scalable bitstream.

21. (Currently Amended) The PVR of claim 19, wherein ~~applying a policy includes~~ the storage manager is configured to delete ~~ing~~ the higher quality copy of the program from the storage after a period of time during which ~~both~~ all copies are available for a potential replaying for a user.

22. (Currently Amended) The PVR of claim 19, further comprising:
a video decoder configured to be used in conjunction with retrieving a best available copy of the program from the storage, and configured to convert the best available copy of the program into an output format suitable for presentation to a display.

23. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising
~~a storage medium for storing a received program; and~~
~~a plurality of programming instructions designed to program an apparatus and upon execution of the programming instructions, enable the apparatus to~~
a non-transitory tangible machine accessible storage medium having stored thereon a plurality of machine executable instructions, wherein the instructions are configured to cause an apparatus, in response to execution of the instructions by the apparatus, to perform operations comprising:

storing in the storage medium the received program as a first digital copy having a first quality level;

converting directly the first digital copy into a second and a third digital copy of the received program having a second and a third quality level respectively, wherein the third quality level is lower than the second quality level, and the second quality level is lower than the first quality level;

storing the second and the third digital copy in the storage medium along with the first digital copy; and

determine periodically space left available in the storage medium; and after a period of time during which ~~all both~~ copies are available for a potential replaying for a user, applying a retention policy which instructs to ~~deletion of~~ at least selected ones of the stored first, ~~and second~~ and third digital copies based at least in part on a result of the determination.

24. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 23, wherein ~~the programming instructions are further designed to, upon execution, enable the apparatus:~~ the operations further comprise:

receiving a request to schedule a recording of the program;
determining a desired recording quality and a longevity for the program; and
associating the quality and longevity with the program;
wherein ~~the data, which when executed applies the retention policy, further includes data for said~~
applying includes applying the retention policy based at least in part on the associated desired
longevity.

25. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 23, ~~wherein the programming~~
~~instructions are further designed to, upon execution, enable the apparatus;~~ the operations further
comprise:

determining a first bitrate for encoding the first digital copy; and
determining a second bitrate for encoding the second digital copy; and
determining a third bitrate for encoding the third digital copy;
wherein the first, ~~and~~ second and third quality levels are respectively determined based at
least in part on the first, ~~and~~ second and third bitrates.

26. – 28. (Cancelled)